

UCLA Faculty Association

News and opinion from Dan Mitchell since 2009

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Monday, October 20, 2025

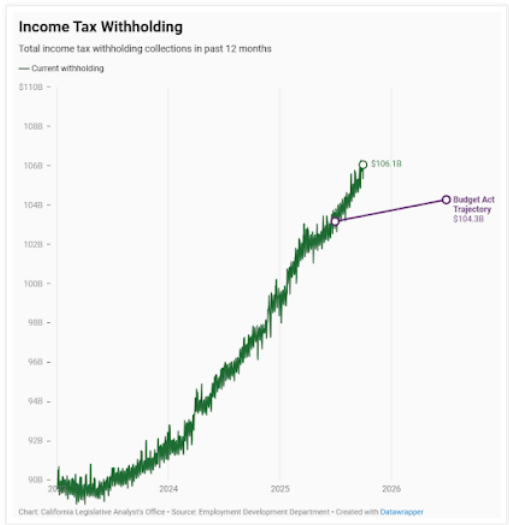
Ten Percent



According to the state controller, revenues for the first quarter of fiscal year 2025-26 ran ten percent above estimates made at the time the state budget was enacted.

Almost all of the overage came from the state's personal income tax. Sales tax came in more or less as anticipated.* So that suggests that the underlying economy was performing as expected, but that capital gains - and withholding reflecting those gains - was pushing up revenue.

The Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) notes the discrepancy between forecast withholding and actual:



Source: <https://lao.ca.gov/LAOEconTax/Article/Detail/756>.

Within that hypothesis is the possibility that AI enthusiasm is creating a financial boom reminiscent of the dot-com boom of the late 1990s (which also enhanced state revenue - until it suddenly didn't).**

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*<https://sco.ca.gov/Files-ARDCASH/September2025StatementofGeneralFundCashReceiptsandDisbursements.pdf>.

**<https://jasonsisney.substack.com/p/astounding-september-tax-withholding>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: controller, LAO, State Budget

Straws in the Wind - Part 136

From [The Athletic/NY Times](#): Penn State fired head coach James Franklin... despite being on the hook for \$45 million remaining on his contract, according to a school source. It is the second-largest buyout in college football history, behind what Texas A&M owed Jimbo Fisher when it fired him on Nov. 12, 2023. The Aggies owed Fisher roughly \$77 million on a contract that runs through 2031. Franklin's buyout is only the third in college football history to surpass the \$20 million threshold for a fired coach, joining that of Fisher and Gus Malzahn, who was owed \$21.4 million when he was fired by Auburn in December 2020.

The Council of UC Faculty Associations

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- Faculty are fighting back
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- Coalition of UC unions condemns Trump's attacks on the UC and the California economy

Remaking the University

- Liner Note 40. AI's Two Pathways: 2025 Has Discredited Booster Assumptions of 2024 - 10/11/2025
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In 2021, Franklin signed a 10-year contract that paid him \$7 million per year in annual compensation plus a \$1 million annual loan for life insurance. There were also incentives and retention bonuses in Franklin's contract, but only his annual compensation and loan are part of the buyout. The massive buyout figure comes as coaching salaries have skyrocketed in recent years. In the late 2010s and early 2020s, the industry saw an increase in fully guaranteed contracts awarded to top coaches with buyouts that crept up into the upper eight figures...

Full story at

<https://www.nytimes.com/athletic/6711634/2025/10/12/penn-state-james-franklin-buyout-explained/>.

From the [NY Times](#): The University of Virginia became the fifth school to rebuff a White House proposal to give universities preferential treatment if they uphold a set of White House demands. The White House offered the proposal to nine universities last week, asking them to sign on to a list of requirements laid out in a 10-page document in exchange for funds. In declining to sign on to the agreement, Paul G. Mahoney, Virginia's interim president, said that while the university agreed with many principles outlined in the proposal, it wanted "no special treatment" in funding.

"A contractual arrangement predicated assessment on anything other than merit will undermine the integrity of the vital, sometimes lifesaving, research and further erode confidence in American higher education," Mr. Mahoney wrote in a note to Linda McMahon, the education secretary, and two other administration officials. Mr. Mahoney's announcement, which also went out to the campus community late Friday afternoon, followed similar decisions in the past week by other schools that received the government's offer, including M.I.T., Brown University, the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Southern California...

Full story at <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/10/17/us/university-of-virginia-white-house-compact.html>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:20 AM](#) No comments: 

Labels: [athletics](#), [Auburn U](#), [Brown University](#), [MIT](#), [Penn State U](#), [Texas A and M](#), [U of Pennsylvania](#), [U of Virginia](#), [USC](#)

Sunday, October 19, 2025

In House

From an email circulated Oct. 8:

To: BruinBuy Plus Users; Chief Administrative Officers; Chief Financial Officers; Deans; Department Chairs; Directors; Procurement (PCard) / Travel & Entertainment (T&E) Cardholders and Approvers; Vice Chancellors; Vice Provosts

Dear Colleagues:

UCLA is committed to a strong in-house workforce, as outlined in the collective bargaining agreement between the University and the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), Article 5. Regents Policy 5402* generally prohibits contracting for services and functions that can be performed by University staff. This applies to ALL new and existing contracts for covered services.

Regardless of the purchase / payment method (e.g., purchase order, Travel & Entertainment (T&E) Card, PCard), contracting out should be used sparingly and treated as an option of last resort to address temporary needs, not as a means to replace employees with lower-wage contractors.

Covered services are defined as work customarily performed by AFSCME Service Unit and Patient Care Technical bargaining unit employees. The Regents policy describes covered services as services for cleaning, custodial, janitorial or housekeeping services; food services; laundry services; groundskeeping; transportation and parking services; security services; billing and coding services; sterile processing; hospital or nursing assistant services; and medical imaging or other medical technician services. Visit the Title Code Search website for information on job titles.**

Exceptions from the policy will be rarely granted. Reduced cost is not an acceptable justification. By requiring wage and benefit parity in any contract for covered services, there will be no cost advantage to using contracted services in lieu of services provided by a UCLA employee.

Compliance with Article 5 and the University's policy on contracting is a top priority. Thank you for your support in keeping UCLA compliant with this important policy.

Visit Campus Purchasing Outsourcing for Covered Services*** or UCLA Health Outsourcing for Covered Services**** for complete details.

Sincerely,

Office of the Vice Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer

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*<https://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/governance/policies/5402.html>

**<https://tcs.ucop.edu/home>

***<https://purchasing.ucla.edu/purchasing/campus-purchasing/outsourcing-covered-services>

****<https://mednet.uclahealth.org/purchasing/about-us/outsourcing-for-covered-services/>

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:30 AM](#) No comments: 

Labels: [UCLA](#)

Straws in the Wind - Part 135

From [Inside Higher Ed](#): California State University, Fresno, celebrated the launch of a new program this fall called Finish in Five, which allows students to earn both a bachelor's and master's degree within five years. University leaders were eager to offer students at the Central Valley campus—which serves large populations of first-generation and low-income students, many the children of local farmworkers—a streamlined pathway to high-demand STEM fields in an economically distressed region.



But less than a month later, the program's funding, which came from a Hispanic-serving institution grant, abruptly ended. The Education Department stopped awarding grants for HSI and many other minority-serving institutions last month, claiming the federal programs amounted to "discrimination." Officials argued the programs are "unconstitutional" because they require institutions to enroll certain percentages of students from specific racial or ethnic backgrounds, among other criteria.

Saúl Jiménez-Sandoval, president of Fresno State, said he doesn't know what's going to happen to the Finish in Five program now that the money is gone. In the past, the campus relied on about \$5 million annually in HSI funding, which fueled a wide range of student supports and programs. The university was also expecting to receive \$250,000 this fiscal year as an Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving institution...

Full story at <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/institutions/minority-serving-institutions/2025/10/14/csu-campuses-reel-blow-hsi-funding>.

From the [LA Times](#): The University of Southern California on Thursday rejected the controversial education compact the Trump administration offered it and eight other schools, saying it would undermine "values of free inquiry and academic excellence." USC interim President Beong-Soo Kim said in a statement that he had sent a letter to the U.S. Department of Education turning down the Trump offer, which would give priority research funding access to universities that agree to follow the president's mostly conservative vision of higher education. His letter, which USC provided to The Times, was addressed to Education Secretary Linda McMahon and said that the compact "raises a number of issues worthy of further discussion within both higher education and our nation."

...White House spokesperson Liz Huston said in a statement that universities "funded by American taxpayers should absolutely serve the national interest." "As long as they are not begging for federal funding, universities are free to implement any lawful policies they would like," she said. "However, the notion that universities should benefit from taxpayer money without responsibilities in return is terribly misguided." ...

Full story at <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2025-10-16/usc-rejects-trump-education-compact>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:20 AM](#) No comments: 

Labels: [CSU](#), [diversity](#), [politics](#), [public funding](#), [USC](#)

Call



Dear Colleagues:

This is a call for nominations for UCLA's 2025-2026 Dickson Emeritus Professorship Award and the Carole E. Goldberg Emeriti Service Award and an explanation of nominating procedures for both awards.

The Dickson Emeritus Professorship Award

The Dickson Award was created by a gift endowment from the late Edward A. Dickson, a Regent of the University of California from 1913 to 1946. The

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 77

Ten Percent

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Call

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Nothing to See Here

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Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 69

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Cloudy Outlook

Straws in the Wind - Part 118

award honors outstanding research, scholarly work, teaching, and/or educational service (e.g. service in professional, University, Academic Senate, emeriti, departmental or editorial posts, or committees) performed by an emeritus/emerita professor since retirement. Each of the UC campuses has received funds that will support one or more awards each year.

The Carole E. Goldberg Emeriti Service Award

The Goldberg Award was created in 2014 to recognize extraordinary service by an emeritus/emerita professor to the academic enterprise after retirement. The award honors outstanding service in professional, University, Academic Senate, emeriti, departmental or editorial posts, or committees performed at UCLA by an emeritus/emerita professor since retirement.

Nominating Procedures for Both Awards

Departments are limited to one nomination each year for each award. Department chairs or their designees are asked to submit nominations. Individuals also may nominate colleagues for these awards, but must coordinate with the department chair to submit nominations.

For both awards, nominations must include a **cover letter**, a copy of the nominee's **curriculum vitae** and two **supporting letters** from leaders in the field commenting specifically on the nominee's achievements since retirement. **Please have the materials focus on post-retirement accomplishments. Guidance for each award is provided below.**

- **Dickson Award** — nominators should concentrate on and highlight the nominee's distinctive research, scholarly work, and/or educational service *since retirement*.
- **Goldberg Award** — nominators should concentrate on and highlight the nominee's distinguished service to UCLA *since retirement*.

Nominations are due by Monday, February 23, 2026. Please submit your nominations online via the [Emeriti Awards Nomination Portal](#).

The awardee(s) will be announced in Spring 2026. The awards, consisting of cash prizes and certificates, will be presented in the fall by the UCLA Emeriti Association.

If you have any questions regarding eligibility or the nomination procedure, please contact Emeriti Association President, Professor Emeritus Fernando Torres-Gil, Torres@luskin.ucla.edu.

Sincerely,

Michael S. Levine
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs & Personnel
Chair, UCLA Emeriti Association Award Selection Committee

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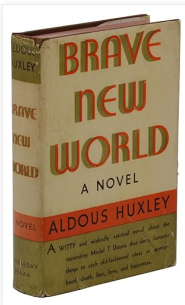
Contributors

- [California Policy Issues](#)
- [Toby Higbie](#)
- [UCLA Faculty Association](#)

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:05 AM](#) No comments: 

Saturday, October 18, 2025

Brave New World - Part 2



From [Inside Higher Ed](#): Dartmouth College is developing a new student-facing AI-powered chatbot to improve mental health and thriving on campus. A team of 130 undergraduate researchers are helping faculty develop the app, Evergreen, by examining relevant research and making the bot more conversational to student users. The goal is to leverage artificial intelligence to provide personalized interventions for students, considering their needs, habits and overall health goals, said Nicholas Jacobson, associate professor of biomedical data science and psychiatry and one of the project leaders.

...Mental health issues are one of the top reported barriers to student retention in higher education. A large share of college students report feeling depressed or anxious, according to national studies of student mental health. At the same time, many college campuses face a shortage of available counselors, and in any case, a significant number of students are unaware of or hesitant to use campus resources for mental health support...

...Evergreen is a mobile app students can choose to download. Unlike other AI-powered large language models such as ChatGPT or Gemini, Evergreen focuses only on health topics, including exercise, diet, time management and sleep. The chatbot offers targeted messages based on the student's stated health goals and other linked data—including sleep hours, step counts, geolocation and learning management system information—to provide insights and create health plans... Like a smartwatch reminding you to stand up or drink water, Evergreen will notice if a student who normally visits the fitness center hasn't done so or encourage a student to leave the library after studying for six hours...

Full story at <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/student-success/health-wellness/2025/10/14/dartmouth-builds-its-own-ai-chatbot-student-well>.



What could possibly go wrong?

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:30 AM](#) No comments:

Labels: [Dartmouth](#), [health care](#)

Straws in the Wind - Part 134

From the [Columbia Daily Spectator](#): A federal judge dismissed a class-action lawsuit... alleging that Columbia, dozens of peer private universities, and the College Board coordinated to inflate attendance costs for students with divorced parents through shared financial aid standards. The judge ruled that the plaintiffs failed to plausibly establish an illegal agreement in violation of federal antitrust law...



The plaintiffs alleged that the universities violated Section 1 of the Sherman Antitrust Act by coordinating how they considered financial data from noncustodial parents when determining aid awards. U.S. District Judge Sara L. Ellis dismissed the case without prejudice, finding that the plaintiffs' claims were too speculative to meet the legal standard required under the Sherman Act...

The suit also named the College Board—which manages the College Scholarship Service Profile system used by Columbia and other private institutions to collect detailed family financial information—as a defendant... In the complaint, the plaintiffs argued that the universities “entered into an agreement to reduce the amount of financial aid awarded” to students by requiring them to submit financial information from noncustodial parents, known as “NCP data.” The lawsuit claims that this collective practice “reduced competition among the University Defendants because they all considered the same financial information,” limiting the ability of any one school to offer a more generous or flexible aid package...

Full story at <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2025/10/12/federal-judge-dismisses-tuition-price-fixing-lawsuit-against-columbia-and-peer-private-universities/>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:20 AM](#) No comments:

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